PART III
CONFIDENTIAL

UNITED STATES SHIP LST 202 Monday (Day) 20 (Date) December (Month), 1943.

Zone description -11

Position	0800	1200	2000
Lat.			
Long.			

OPERATIONAL REMARKS
(WAR DIARY)

0000-0400
0000 Underway at standard speed on course 309 T. and p.g.c. on Tufi Harbor range. In company with LSTs 466, 468, and 470.
0010 Changed course to 348 T. and p.g.c.
0050 Changed course to 324 T. and p.g.c.
0123 Sighted Spear Island Light two points off port bow.
0125 Changed course to 270 T.
0150 Changed course to 265T.
0205 Turned off dimmed running lights.
0226 Passed Spear Island Light abeam to port, bearing 173 p.g.c. distant 2.8 miles.
0334 Changed course to 306 T. and p.g.c.

JRRaymond

0400-0800
0400 Undreway as before.
0607 Changed speed to one third ahead.
0625 Stopped engines, changed course to 265 T.
0630 Commenced filling ballast tanks 404, 405, 406, 410 and 411.
0700 Ballast tanks filled.
0721 Anchored five miles off Cape Sudest in 25 fathoms water with 60 fathoms chain to bow anchor.

T.R.Flanagan Lt.(j.g.)

0800-1200
0800 Anchored as before.
0800 Small arms, magazines inspected, condition good. SPDN dry and normal.

HHGaillard

1200-1600
1200 Anchored as before.
1325 Preparations made for getting underway.
1330 Anchor aweigh. Underway at various courses and speeds standing toward new anchorage.
1342 Anchored off Cape Sudest in 30 fathoms water with 50 fathoms chain to bow anchor.
1358 LCV hoisted aboard and secured for sea.
1415 Commenced heaving in on bow anchor.
1427 Anchor aweigh. Underway at various courses and speeds proceeding towrads beach.
1455 Forward ballast tanks full.
1530 Approaching beach at 2/3 speed ahead.
1533 Let go stern anchor.
1534 On the beach. Opened bow doors and lowered ramp.

JRRaymond

1600-2000
1600 Beached as before.
1638 Filled ballast tanks 413, 414.

T.R.Flanagan

2000-2400
Beached as before, loading cargo.

HHGaillard

Approved:

E Banning Lt-jg
~~Commanding~~ Officer.
Executive

Examined:

HHGaillard
H.H.Gaillard, Lt.(j.g.)USCG(R) Navigator.

To be forwarded direct to the Commander in Chief, U. S. Fleet, either at end of an operation or at the end of the calendar month.

PART III

CONFIDENTIAL

UNITED STATES SHIP LST 202 Tuesday (Day) 21 (Date) December (Month), 1943.

Zone description ....

Position	0800	1200	2000
Lat.	Cape Sudest, N.G.	as before	as before
Long.			

OPERATIONAL REMARKS

(WAR DIARY)

0000-0400
0000 Beached as before at Cape Sudest, S.H. 266-30, receiving cargo.
0300 Sighted white flare overhead. Condition yellow set over Cape Sudest. Commenced blacking out ship.
0310 Ship blacked out.

J.R.Raymond

0400-0800
0400 Beached as before.
0415 All clear from condition yellow.

T.R.Flanagan Lt(j.g)

0800-1200
0800 Beached as before.
0800 Small arms, magazines inspected, found satisfactory. SPDN dry and normal.
1030 Ship's LCV sent to Oro Bay as per intruct ons received from Squad. X21.

H.H.Gaillard

1200-1600
1200 Beached as before.
1257 Loading completed. Made preparations for retraction from beach. Raised ramp and closed bow doors.
1300 All engines back full in effort to retract from beach, heaving in on stern anchor.
1304 Off the beach. Stopped all engines. Heaving in on stern anchor.
1307 Stern anchor housed. Underway at various courses and speeds standing to anchorage.
1330 Anchored off Cape Sudest in 30 fathoms water with 50 fathoms chain to bow anchor.
1459 Anchors aweigh. Underway at various courses and speeds shifting anchorage.
1534 Anchored off Cape Sudest in 32 fathoms water with 60 fathoms chain to bow anchor.

J.R.Raymond

1600-2000
1600 Anchored as before.
1620 Boat crew aboard after taking our small boat to Oro Bay.

T.R.Flanagan

2000-2400
Anchored as before.

H.H.Gaillard

Approved:

E Banning Lt-jg
~~Commanding~~ Officer.
Executive

Examined:

H.H.Gaillard
Navigator.
H.H.Gaillard, Lt. (j.g.)USCG(R)

To be forwarded direct to the Commander in Chief, U. S. Fleet, either at end of an operation or at the end of the calendar month.

PART III
CONFIDENTIAL

UNITED STATES SHIP LST 202 Wednesday (Day) 22 (Date) December (Month), 1943.

Zone description -11

Position	0800	1200	2000
Lat.	Cape Sudest, N.G.	as before	as before.
Long.			

OPERATIONAL REMARKS
(WAR DIARY)

0000-0400
0000 Anchored off Cape Sudest, N.G. in approximately 30 fathoms water with 60 fathoms chain to bow anchor.

JPRaymond

0400-0800
Anchored as before.

T.R.Flanagan Lt.(jg)

0800-1200
0800 Anchored as before.
0800 Inspected small arms and magazines, satisfactory. SPDN dry and normal.
1150 LCV 488 alongside, crew aboard.

HHGaillard

1200-1600
1200 Anchored as before.
1255 US Army LCV hoisted aboard and secured for sea on starboard davits.
1327 Ship's LCV hoisted aboard and secured for sea on port davits.
1425 Working party departed in LST 67's LCV with 160 rounds 40MM ammunition.

JPRaymond

1600-2000
Anchored as before.

T.R.Flanagan

2000-2400
2000 Anchored as before.
2100 Small boat alongside. Lt. White of LST 66 aboard.

HHGaillard

Approved:

EBanning Lt-jg
~~Commanding~~ Executive Officer.

Examined:

HHGaillard
H.H.Gaillard, Lt. (j.g.)USCG(R) Navigator.

To be forwarded direct to the Commander in Chief, U. S. Fleet, either at end of an operation or at the end of the calendar month.

USS Rigel—10-23-43—5M.
BNP 136

UNITED STATES SHIP LST 202 Thursday (Day) 23 (Date) December (Month), 1943.

Zone description -11

Position	0800	1200	2000
Lat.	Cape Sudest, N.G.	as before	as before.
Long.			

OPERATIONAL REMARKS
(WAR DIARY)

0000-0400
0000 Anchored off Cape Sudest in 30 fathoms water with 60 fathoms chain to bow anchor.
0125 LCV from LST 66 departed with Lt. White.

J.R.Raymond

0400-0800
Anchored as before.

T.R.Flanagan Lt.(j.g.)

0800-1200
0800 Anchored as before.
0800 Small arms, magazines inspected, found satisfactory. SPDN dry and normal.

H.H.Gaillard

1200-1600
1200 Anchored as before.
1335 Captain aboard with Commander Peterson and two officers.
1405 Commander Peterson and two officers departed.

J.R.Raymond

1600-2000
1600 Anchored as before.
1636 APc 12 tied along our port side.
1700 Life jackets brought aboard.
1704 APc 12 departed.

T.R.Flanagan

2000-2400
Anchored as before.

H.H.Gaillard

Approved:

E Banning Lt. j.g.
~~Commanding~~ Executive Officer.

Examined:

H.H.Gaillard
H.H.Gaillard, Lt.(j.g.)USCG(R) Navigator.

To be forwarded direct to the Commander in Chief, U. S. Fleet, either at end of an operation or at the end of the calendar month.

USS Rigel—10-23-43—5M.
BNP 136

PART III
CONFIDENTIAL

UNITED STATES SHIP LST 202 Friday (Day) 24 (Date) December (Month), 1943

Zone description -11

Position	0800	1200	2000
Lat. Long.	Cape Sudest, N.G.	Cape Sudest, N.G.	Buna, N.G.

OPERATIONAL REMARKS
(WAR DIARY)

0000-0400

0000	Anchored off Cape Sudest, N.G. in 30 fathoms water with 60 fathoms chain to bow anchor

J.R.Raymond

0400-0800

Anchored as before.

T.A.Flanagan Lt(j.g.)

0800-1200

0800	Anchored as before.
0800	Inspected small arms, magazines, found satisfactory. SPDN dry and normal. Made fortnightly test.
0825	Mustered all hands on forecastle. Crew received first aid instruction from Dr. Steinmetz, Lt.-Com . Commanding Officer addressed crew.
0910	Crew dismissed with the exception of the gun pointers. Gun pointers received instruction from Lt.(j.g.) Flanagan, Gunnery Officer.
1100	Prepared to get underway and beach ship.
1115	Anchors aweigh. Underway at various courses and speeds proceeding to beach.
1200	Let go stern anchor.
1201	Beached at 1/3 speed at Cape Sudest. Set regular sea watch.

H.H.Gaillard

1200-1600

1200	Beached at Cape Sudest.
1204	Bow doors opened and ramp lowered.
1240	U.S. Marines started coming aboard.
1340	Completed taking aboard troops; 43 Officers, 587 enlisted men USMC and 5 men USA aboard.
1345	Let go all lines from beach, stopped all engines preparatory to retracting.
1348	Bow doors closed. All engines back 2/3rds, heaving in on stern anchor.
1349	Off the beach. Stopped all engines.
1350	Stern anchor aboard. Underway at various courses and speeds proceeding to anchorage.
1428	Anchored in about 30 fathoms water with 50 fathoms chain out to bow anchor.

J.R.Raymond

1600-2000

1600	Anchored as before.
1727	Anchor aweigh. Underway proceeding to Buna.
1832	Anchored Buna Harbor in 30 fathoms water with 55 fathoms chain to bow anchor.
1845	LCV departed with Commanding Officer.

T.A.Flanagan

2000-2400

2000	Anchored as before.
2130	Commanding Officer returned to ship. LCV hoisted aboard and secured for sea.

H.H.Gaillard

Approved:

E Banning Lt. j.g.
~~Commanding~~ Officer
Executive

Examined:

H.H.Gaillard
Navigator.
H.H.Gaillard, Lt. (j.g.)USCG(R)

To be forwarded direct to the Commander in Chief, U. S. Fleet, either at end of an operation or at the end of the calendar month.

USS Rigel—10-23-43—5M.
BNP 136

PART III

CONFIDENTIAL

UNITED STATES SHIP LST 202 Saturday (Day) 25 (Date) December (Month), 1943

Zone description -11

Position	0800	1200	2000
Lat.			
Long.			

OPERATIONAL REMARKS

(WAR DIARY)

0000-0400

0000 Anchored off Buna, N.G. in 30 fathoms water with 50 fathoms chain out to bow anchor.
0215 Commenced making preparations for getting underway .
0240 Main engines ready, bridge tested, heaved anchor in to short stay.
0254 Anchors aweigh. Lying to, waiting to take position in column.
0310 Took position eight in column of eight LSTs. All engines ahead standard.
0320 All engines ahead full speed.
0350 Took station for Form DOG. All egines ahead standard speed.

JPRaymond

0400-0800

0400 Underway as before on various courses following lead of guide ship.
0647 Mitre Rock two points on port bow bearing 305 T.
0710 Mitre Rock abeam to port bearing 238 T, distant 1.6 miles.
0730 Convoy formed two sections, this ship number two in second section.

T.R.Flanagan Lt (j.g.)

0800-1200

0800 Underway on course 328 T. at standard speed.
0800 Small arms, magazines inspected and found satisfactory. SPDN dry and normal.
0810 Changed course to 354 T.
1010 Standard speed changed to 9.5 knots (265r.p.m.)
1045 Changed speed to 255 r.p.m.

HHGaillard

1200-1600

1200 Underway as before.
1412 Changed course to 036 T.
1415 LSTs 26 and 465 left formation. Echelon now composed of LSTs 466,(flag),18,66,67,68 and 202.
1424 Changed course to 060 T.
1434 Changed course to 030 T.
1446 Changed course to 354 T.
1538 LST 204 joined formation taking position three in second section, directly astern of this ship.

JPRaymond

1600-2000

1600 Underway as before.
1 652 Convoy speed reduced to 8 knots.
1752 Changed course to 324 T.

T.R. Flanagan

2000-2400

2000 Underway as before.
2100 Sighted anti-aircraft tracer fire on our starboard side about eight miles away.
2219 Changed course to 000 T. Changed speed to two thirds.
2230 Resumed standard speed of 8 knots.

HHGaillard

Approved:

E Banning Lieut jg
~~Commanding~~ Officer.
Executive

Examined:

HHGaillard
H.H.Gaillard, Lt.(j.g.)USCG(R) Navigator.

To be forwarded direct to the Commander in Chief, U. S. Fleet, either at end of an operation or at the end of the calendar month.

USS Rigel—10-23-43—5M.
BNP 136

CONFIDENTIAL

UNITED STATES SHIP LST 202 Sunday (Day) 26 (Date) December (Month), 1943

Zone description -11

Position	0800	1200	2000
Lat.	Cape Gloucester,New Britain	Cape Gloucester, New Britain	
Long.			

OPERATIONAL REMARKS

(WAR DIARY)

0000-0400

0000 Underway in two columns, in formation DOG, on course 000 T.(359p.g.c.) at standard speed 8 knots, in company with LSTs 466(flag),18,66,67,68,204 and destroyer escort. This ship in position two second section. Echelon proceeding to Cape Gloucester, N.B.

0040 Changed course to 003 T.

0132 Changed course to 030 T.

0143 Changing course slightly to starboard, steering between 038 and 042 p.g.c.

0229 Changed course to 089 T.

gRRaymond

0400-2000(General Quarters from 0615 until 1942)

0400 Underway as before.

0600 Standing off Cape Gloucester. Cruisers commenced shelling beach.

0615 Sounded alarm for General Quarters.

0618 All stations manned and ready.

0628 Passed four friendly cruisers with destroyers on our starboard shelling beach.

0705 Approximately 34 Liberators passing overhead approaching beach.

0714 Sighted bombs from Liberators bursting on beach.

0720 Sighted approximately 36 more bombers (Mitchells) heading for beach.

0725 Bombs from Mitchells bursting on beach, followed by low level strafing.

0728 Changed course to 130 T.

0745 Changed course to 160 T.

0748 Changed course to 180 T. Visibility very poor due to smoke from shellfire and bombs.

0800 Altered course to port in order to avoid shoals reported to starboard.

0815 Section two proceeding on previous orders to beach. Changed speed to 2/3rds.

0820 Underway at various speeds and courses standing in to beach.

0825 Opened bow doors.

0827 Reduced speed to one third because of dense smoke coming from beach making visibility very poor.

0838 Sighted range on beach.

0842 Standing into beach at standard speed ahead.

0845 Let go stern anchor. Changed speed to 2/3 ahead.

0846 On the beach at Cape Gloucester New Britain, second LST to hit the beach.

0849 Lowered ramp

0853 Lowered USA LCV 489-D into water from starboard davits.

0852 Commenced unloading.

0900 Received warning to be on the alert for enemy dive bombers. Stations already manned.

1250 Seven LSTs lying to off beach waiting for this echelon to retract.

1310 USMC casualties brought aboard.

1323 Stopped unloading. Approximately 20 tons bulk cargo still remaining aboard.

1325 Raised ramp and closed bow doors. Stopped engines.

1336 Started heaving in on stern anchor, all engines back full in effort to retract.

1337 Off the beach. All engines stopped.

1340 Stern anchor up. Underway at various courses and speeds standing out from beach.

1410 All engines stopped. Lying to, waiting for Section one to join formation.

1422 All engines ahead standard speed, following movements of LST 18.

1430 Planes, believed to be enemy, sighted overhead. All engines ahead full.

1431 Detroyers opened fire on aircraft ahead, still out of range of our batteries.

1433 Sighted enemy aircraft crash into sea off our port bow.

1435 Seven enemy dive bombers heading in to attack formation from dead ahead.

1438 Enemy dive bombers attacking from dead ahead . Opened fire with all anti-aircraft guns.

1441 Two bombs struck water on starboard side about 25 feet from this ship. No apparent damage.

1443 Enemy plane which had passed from our starboard side across ship, crashed into sea off our port quarter. Believed to have been hit by gunfire from this ship.

Approved:

Examined:

(Cont. next page)

E Banning Lt. jg
Commanding Officer.
Executive

Navigator.

To be forwarded direct to the Commander in Chief, U. S. Fleet, either at end of an operation or at the end of the calendar month.

USS Rigel—10-23-43—5M.
BNP 136

PART III

CONFIDENTIAL

UNITED STATES SHIP LST 202 Sunday (Day) 26 December (Date) (Month), 1943

Zone description ....

Position	0800	1200	2000
Lat.			
Long.			

OPERATIONAL REMARKS
(WAR DIARY)

0000-2000 (cont)

1450 Enemy plane coming in on our port beam. Opened fire. Plane dropped bombs on our port side within fifty feet of ship. Decks covered with shrapnel from bursting bombs. No damage apparent.
1452 Enemy dive bomber crashed into sea, believed to have been hit by anti-aircraft fire from this ship.
1455 Ceased fire in accordance with instructions from Flotilla Commander. Consensus of opinion of officers of this ship was that 12 enemy planes were shot down and 6 of our own.
1510 Set course at 275 T.
1515 Changed speed to standard ahead.
1647 Sighted anti-aircraft on our starboard beam from destroyers.
1701 Sighted enemy high altitude bomber two points forward of port beam.
1701-30 Enemy bomber within range of 40MM gun. Opened fire with 40MM anti-aircraft gun.
1703 Enemy two engined bomber ccashed into sea on our port beam, believed to have been brought down by fire from our 40MM AA gun.
1706 Changed speed to full ahead.
1710 Sighted more planes, out of range of our guns, crashing into sea, off our port bow. Unable to identify planes due to distance.
1720 Changed speed to standard ahead.
1746 Changed course to 270 T.
1755 Received warning to stay clear of DD SHAW which appears to have been damaged by enemy fire.
1942 Secured all stations from General Quarters. Set regular sea watch.

H.H.Gaillard, Lt.(jg)

2000-2400

2000 Underway at standard speed on course 270 T.
2012 Changed course to 234 T.
2130 Changed course to 180 T.
2315 Changed course to 144 T.
2359 Changed course to 139 T.

H.H.Gaillard

Approved:

O Banning Lt. jg
Commanding Officer.
Executive

Examined:

H.H.Gaillard
H.H.G aillard, Lt.(j.g.)USCG(R)
Navigator.

To be forwarded direct to the Commander in Chief, U. S. Fleet, either at end of an operation or at the end of the calendar month.

PART III
CONFIDENTIAL

UNITED STATES SHIP LST 202 Monday (Day) 27 (Date) December (Month), 1943

Zone description -11

Position	0800	1200	2000
Lat.		7°50'S	
Long.		148°10'E	

OPERATIONAL REMARKS
(WAR DIARY)

0000-0400

0000	Underway, proceeding to Cape Sudest, in company with LSTs18,66,67,68 and 204, on course 138 T at standard speed ahead.
0352	Changed course to 194 T.

J.P.Raymond

0400-0800

0400	Underway as before.
0644	Changed course to 214 T. Changed speed momentarily to one third ahead. Changed speed to standard ahead.

T.R.Flanagan Lt.(j.g.)

0800-1200

0800	Underway as before.
0800	Inspected small arms and magazines, found satisfactory. SPDN dry and normal.

H.H.Gaillard

1200-1600

1200	Underway as before.
1215	Changed course to 253 T.
1353	Changed course to 115 T.
1426	Changed course to 174 T.
1527	Changed course to 151 T.

J.P.Raymond

1600-2000

1600	Underway as before.
1635	Formed single column, this ship in second position aster of LST 18.
1729	Raymond shoal buoy broad on port bow bearing 106 T.
1838	Changed speed to 1/3 ahead.
1840	Changed course to 140 T.
1842	Changed speed to 2/3 ahead.
1845	Ships executed flank turn of 90° to left.
1850	Stopped engines.
1900	Anchored Buna Roads in 30 fathoms water with 60 fathoms chain out to bow anchor.
1921	Evening colors. Ship blacked out.
1948	Heaving in on bow anchor.
1950	Underway in single column formation at various courses and speeds proceeding to Cape Sudest.

T.R.Flanagan

2000-2400

2000	Underway as before.
2005	Stopped starboard engine for repairs.
2015	Starboard engine reported ready to use. All engines ahead standard.
2115	Anchored Cape Sudest in 28 fathoms water with 50 fathoms chain to bow anchor.
2140	Ship's LCV departed with Commanding Officer for LST 18.

H.H.Gaillard

Approved: Examined:

E Banning Lt. jg
~~Commanding~~ Executive Officer.

H.H.Gaillard
H.H.Gaillard, Lt.(j.g.)USCG(R) Navigator.

To be forwarded direct to the Commander in Chief, U. S. Fleet, either at end of an operation or at the end of the calendar month.

UNITED STATES SHIP LST 202 Tuesday (Day) 28 (Date) December (Month), 1943

Zone description -11

Position	0800	1200	2000
Lat.	Cape Sudest, N.G.	as before	as before
Long.			

OPERATIONAL REMARKS
(WAR DIARY)

0000-0400
0000 Anchored, off Cape Sudest, N.G. in 28 fathoms water with 50 fathoms chain to bow anchor.
0015 Commanding Officer returned to ship.

J.R.Raymond

0400-0800
0400 Anchored as before.
0535 Anchor heaved in to short stay. Preparations made for getting underway,
0600 Filled ballast tanks 404,405,406,410,411.
0623 Anchor aweigh. Underway at various courses and speeds to beach at Cape Sudest.
0730 Coming in on range of 266 T.
0756 Approaching slip #4. Let go stern anchor.
0758 Beached on slip#4.
0759 Ordered by beachmaster to beach on slip#1. Heaving in on stern anchor. Off the beach.

T.R.Flanagan Lt.(j.g.)

0800-1200
0800 Off the beach, heaving in stern anchor, engines stopped.
0803 Stern anchor aboard. Underway at various speed and courses proceeding from beach.
0810 Sounded blasts on whistle to warn LST 66 of danger of collision.
0830 Heading towards Slip #1.
0836 Let go stern anchor.
0837 Beached Slip #1, Cape Sudest, N.G.
0900 Commenced loading cargo from beach onto tank deck.

H.H.Gaillard

1200-1600
1200 Becahed as before, loading cargo.
1455 Ship's LCP hoisted aboard and secured for sea.

J.R.Raymond

1600-2000
1600 Beached as before, loading cargo.
1600 Lt.(j.g.) Richard G. HALLETT, Engineering Officer, departed from this ship for LST 464, for hospitalization prior to return to Continental limits of USA, authority orders Commander, Group 21, Flot. & 7.
1921 Preparations made for getting underway. Loading completed.
1927 Took in stern lines.
1950 Heaving in on stern anchor. All engines back full attempting to retract from beach.

1952 Ramp closed. Started pumping ballast from forward tanks.

T.R.Flanagan

2000-2400
2000 On the beach, attempting to retract, all engines backing full.
2012 Moved all troops aft.
2014 Off the beach. Stopped all engines.
2020 Stern anchor aweigh. Underway at various courses and speeds standing out from beach.
2040 Formed single column this position two.
2150 Set course at 340 T. at 1/3 ahead both engines.
2210 Changed speed to standard ahead.
2231 Changed course to 254 T.
2250 Changed course to 300 T.
2305 Took station for formation DOG.
2315 Changed course to 327 T.

H.H.Gaillard

Approved:

E.Banning Lt. jg
Commanding Officer.
Executive

Examined:

H.H.Gaillard
H.H.Gaillard, Lt.(j.g.)USCG(R) Navigator.

To be forwarded direct to the Commander in Chief, U. S. Fleet, either at end of an operation or at the end of the calendar month.

PART III
CONFIDENTIAL

UNITED STATES SHIP LST 202 Wednesday (Day) 29 (Date) December (Month), 1943

Zone description -11

Position	0800	1200	2000
Lat.		06°20'S	
Long.		148°02'E	

OPERATIONAL REMARKS
(WAR DIARY)

0000-0400
0000 Underway on course 327 T. at standard speed, echelon composed of LSTS 18,66,67,68,463 and 202.
0145 Changed course to 000 T.
0146 Changed course to 005 T.
0230 Mitre Rock beacon abeam to port bearing 275 T., distant 4.5 miles.
0314 Changed course to 310 T.

J P Raymond

0400-0800
0400 Underway as before.
0640 Commenced forming two columns, this ship remaining in position two first column.
0643 Changed speed to 2/3 ahead.
0705 Resumed standard speed ahead.

T.R.Flanagan Lt(j.g.)

0800-1200
0800 Underway as before.
0800 Small arms, magazines inspected and found satisfactory. SPDN dry and normal.
0813 Changed course to 035 T.
1119 Sighted Tami Islands bearing 005 T.

HHGaillard

1200-1600
1200 Underway as before.
1318 Changed course to 342 T.
1530 Executed flank movement of 50° to right to avoid APDs anchored ahead of us.
1537 Resumed base course of 342 T.

J P Raymond

1600-2000
1600 Underway as before.
1608 Sounded alarm for General Quarters.
1611 All stations manned and ready.
1617 Took station outside LST 18, 1000 yards from section two.
1628 Secured from General Quarters and resumed former position in convoy.
1635 Changed course to 325 T.
1852 Sounded alarm for General Quarters.
1856 All stations manned and ready.
1912 Secured from General Quarters.

T.R.Flanagan

2000-2400
2000 Underway as before.
2132 Changed course to 000 T.
2240 Violent squalls being encoutered, visibility very poor. Steering between 345 p.g.c. and 355 p.g.c. to allow for leeway caused by strong NW winds.
2252 Changed course to 350 p.g.c.
2400 Squalls with strong winds continued throughout watch.

HHGaillard

Approved:

E Banning Lt. j.g.
~~Commanding~~ Executive Officer.

Examined:

HHGaillard
H.H.Gaillard, Lt. (j.g.)USCG(R) Navigator.

To be forwarded direct to the Commander in Chief, U. S. Fleet, either at end of an operation or at the end of the calendar month.

UNITED STATES SHIP LST 202 Thursday (Day) 30 (Date) December (Month), 1943

Zone description -11

Position	0800	1200	2000
Lat.		Cape Gloucester, N.B.	
Long.			

OPERATIONAL REMARKS
(WAR DIARY)

0000-0400
0000 Underway on course 350 T. at standard speed ahead in company with LSTs 18,66,67,68, and 463.
0020 Changed course to 352 T.
0115 Changed course to 089 T.
0245 Convoy speed set at 8 knots.
0318 Changed course to 084 T.

JRRaymond

0400-2000 (General Quarters from 0622 until 1925)
0400 Underway as before.
0618 Sounded alarm for General Quarters.
0622 All stations manned and ready.
0705 Destroyer escort departed. Standing into beach on various courses at standard speed.
0720 All engines stopped.
0738 Small boat alongside. Pilot aboard.
0742 Standing into beach at standard speed.
0808 Let go the stern anchor.
0809 Becahed Cape Gloucester, N.B. at standard speed.
0810 Gave order to fill all forward ballast tanks.
0816 Ramp down .
0818 Commenced unloading.
1140 Completed unloading cargo and troops.
1150 Commenced loading trucks on to tank deck.
1202 Completed loading 26 trucks on tank deck.
1205 Ramp raised. All engines backing full in attempt to retract.
1206 Bow doors closed. Started pumping ballast from forward tanks.
1215 Off the beach. Stopped all engines, heaving in on stern anchor.
1219 Anchor housed. Underway at various courses and speeds standing out from beach.
1300 Proceeding at 1/3 speed waiting to be joined by remainder of echelon.
1415 Changed speed tp 2/3 ahead.
1525 Echelon forming up. This ship in position two, Section one.
1540 Echelon formed. Set course at 285 T., speed at two thirds ahead.
1655 Received emergency hoist from escort that strange aircraft sighted to our port.
1700 Changed speed to standard ahead. Took position 1000 yards from other ships in anticipation of ait attack. All gun stations standing by.
1710 Changed course to 276 T.
1715 Resumed two section formation. Changed course to 279 T.
1925 Secured from General Quarters and set regular sea watch.

HHGaillard, Lt.(jg)

2000-2400
2000 Underway as before.
2236 Changed course to 210 T.
2237 Stopped all engines. All engines ahead full, right full rudder. Manouvering to avoid collision with LST 66, who either didn't make course shange in time or turned to right instead of to left.
2240 Rudder amidships. All engines ahead standard.
2245 Resumed position in column.

HHGaillard

Approved:

E Banning Lt.jg
~~Commanding~~ Officer.
Executive

Examined:

HHGaillard
Navigator.
H.H.Gaillard, Lt.(j.g.)USCG(R)

USS Rigel—10-23-43—5M.
BNP 136

PART III

CONFIDENTIAL

UNITED STATES SHIP LST 202 Friday (Day) 31 (Date) December (Month), 19 43

Zone description -11

Position	0800	1200	2000
Lat.		07°35'S	
Long.		148°05'E	

OPERATIONAL REMARKS

(WAR DIARY)

0000-0400
0000 Underway on course 210 T. at standard speed in company with LSTs 18,66,67,68, and 463. Formation DOG, this ship in position two section one.
0000 Changed course to 180 T.
0145 Changed course to 145 T.

J R Raymond

0400-0800
0400 Underway as before.
0641 Changed course to174 T.
0724 Changed course to 180 T.

T.R. Flanagan Lt (jg)

0800-1200
0800 Underway as before.
0800 Smalll arms, magazines inspected, satisfactory. SPDN dry and normal.

HHGaillard

1200-1600
1200 Underway as before.
1247 Changed course to 172 T.
1539 Changed course to 185 T.

J R Raymond

1600-2000
1600 Underway as before.
1625 Formed single column, this ship in number two position.
1650 Changed courss to 147 T.
1912 Took fix on Claire Shoal buoy bearing 012 T. and Margaret Shoal lighted buoy bearing 151 T.

T.R. Flanagan

2000-2400
2000 Underway as before.
2025 Changed course to 167 T.
2105 Standing in to anchor off Cape Sudest, N.G.
2146 Anchored off Cape Sudest in 30 fathoms water with 60 fathoms chain to bow anchor.
2310 Ship's LCV departed with eight war correspondents.

HHGaillard

Approved:

E Banning Lt jg
~~Commanding~~ Executive Officer.

Examined:

HHGaillard
H.H.Gaillard, Lt.(j.g.)USCG(R) Navigator.

To be forwarded direct to the Commander in Chief, U. S. Fleet, either at end of an operation or at the end of the calendar month.